



**Health Services**  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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Fifth District

December 31, 2008

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.  
Interim Director

SUBJECT: **STATUS REPORT ON KEY INDICATORS OF  
PROGRESS, HOSPITAL OPERATIONS, AND OTHER  
ISSUES RELATING TO THE TRANSITION TO THE  
NEW LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER -- PROGRESS  
REPORT #3 (Agenda Item # S-1, January 6, 2009)**

**John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D.**  
Interim Director

**Robert G. Splawn, M.D.**  
Interim Chief Medical Officer

This is to provide your Board with the bi-monthly report on the status of transitioning to the new LAC+USC Medical Center. This report is not a full monthly report but an interim operational report and also addresses questions posed by Supervisor Antonovich at the December 9, 2008 Board meeting. The data report for the full month of December will be provided in the next bi-monthly report in two weeks.

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[www.dhs.lacounty.gov](http://www.dhs.lacounty.gov)

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**Census Trending**

The Average Daily Census (ADC) from December 1 – 28, 2008 was 454 (excluding psych), an estimated 74% utilization rate (76% occupancy). This is up from an ADC of 436 (excluding psych) for the prior month. Although the census for Med/Surg is at near capacity, an estimated 91% utilization (92% occupancy), census in some specialty areas continues to be low due to lack of specialty patients presenting to the facility. Detailed census by specialty is provided in the Census by Specialty Service chart on page 2.

**Diversion Data**

Emergency Department saturation diversion averaged 39% for the month of December (as of December 29) which is a decrease of 11% diversion from the month of November, 2008. There was no trauma diversion during this period.

**Questions Raised at the December 9, 2008 Board Meeting**

Supervisor Antonovich asked questions regarding the census for various services, physician hiring related to the Medical School Operating Agreement (MSOA) and status of the air-conditioning system. Details are provided as follows:



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- **Census by Specialty Service**

Units	Beds	Patient Days	ADC
Med/Surg	299	7603	271.5
ICUs	130	2519	90.0
Burns (incl ICU)	20	304	10.8
Jail	24	371	13.3
OB/GYN	32	544	19.4
NICU	40	587	21.0
Pediatrics	25	415	14.8
Peds ICU	10	162	5.8
Med/Surg Adolescent	20	216	7.7
Psych	71	1519	54.25

- **MSOA Hiring**

The MSOAs were approved by your Board on November 25, 2008. The Chief Medical Officer of the hospital is coordinating a meeting with USC on recruitment and selection of physicians for new MSOA positions. More detail will be provided in the next report.

- **Status of Air Conditioning System**

The replacement facility Inpatient Tower, Diagnostic and Treatment Building, and the Clinic Tower is designed with a state of the art Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system that utilizes a computer automated energy management system to maintain space comfort levels, air change and room pressure requirements for regulatory compliance. The HVAC system is monitored by engineering staff in the central plant 24/7. System evaluations are ongoing to maximize efficiency and enhance performance to produce the best environment possible. According to our central plant engineers, the HVAC has been functioning as designed and they have not noted any malfunctions. However, there can be temperature fluctuations in a particular patient care area, as a result of a request from staff or patients for a warmer or cooler environment. When technicians are made aware of these issues, they respond and make immediate corrections to adjust the temperature for the appropriate comfort level. These types of temperature fluctuations are particularly common during seasonal transitions.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Carol Meyer, Interim Chief Network Officer at (213) 240-8370.

JFS:pm  
811:003

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors